

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 25020 301044Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 /018 W
-----016751 301059Z /10
P 301019Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0235

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 25020

STATE FOR EA

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, TH
SUBJ: KRIANGSAK'S USE OF ARTICLE 27

REF: (A) STATE 215801, (B) BANGKOK 22166

1. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. REFTEL A INDICATED EA IS PREPARING FIRST DRAFT OF 1978 COUNTRY HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT AND WOULD WELCOME ADVANCE COMMENTS FROM POSTS. RECENTLY, THAI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS RELEASED FIGURES ON PM KRIANGSAK'S USE OF ARTICLE 27 OF INTERIM CONSTITUTION, WHICH ALLOWS PRIME MINISTER TO MAKE A FINDING OF GUILT AND ORDER IMMEDIATE PUNISHMENT, WITHOUT TRIAL, IN CERTAIN CRIMINAL CASES. USE OF ARTICLE 27 HAS FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN PAST HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING, AND FOLLOWING MAY BE USEFUL IN PREPARING 1978 REPORT. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THAWI CHUSAP, DG OF DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, GAVE INTERVIEW TO PRESS AUGUST 16 IN WHICH HE STATED THAT PM KRIANGSAK HAS INVOKED POWER OF ARTICLE 27 IN 23 CASES INVOLVING 86 PERSONS. POWER WAS FIRST INVOKED MAY 10, 1978, AND LAST INVOKED AUGUST 10, 1978. OF 86 PERSONS, 60 WERE SENTENCED TO PRISON, 6 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 25020 301044Z

WERE DETAINED TEMPORARILY DURING INVESTIGATION, 14 ESCAPED DURING INVESTIGATION, ONE ESCAPED FROM CUSTODY, THREE RECEIVED DEATH SENTENCES, AND TWO WERE ACQUITTED. THREE PERSONS SENTENCED TO DEATH INCLUDED ONE RAPIST-KILLER AND TWO NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS (NARCOTICS CASE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED REFTEL B).

3. SINCE AUGUST 16 INTERVIEW, PRESS HAS REPORTED ONE
ADDITIONAL CASE IN WHICH KRIANGSAK INVOKED ARTICLE 27
POWERS. ON AUGUST 22, EIGHT FISHERMEN WERE SENTENCED
TO FIVE-YEAR PRISON TERMS FOR ILLEGALLY USING DYNAMITE
FOR FISHING OPERATIONS. ABRAMOWITZ

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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